

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated June 27, 2007. Claims 1, 4-6, and 8-11 are currently pending, claims 2-3, 7, and 15-20 having been cancelled. In light of the remarks that follow, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, dated March 9, 2007, the Examiner objected to claim 7, but indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Pursuant thereto, independent claim 1 has been amended herein so as to include the allowable limitations of claim 7 and any necessary limitations from any intervening claims, namely claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, and for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable. As claims 4-6 and 8-11 depend, either directly or indirectly therefrom, for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 and 8-11 are also allowable.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-6 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,439,467 to Benderev et al. (hereinafter "Benderev"). As indicated above, claims 2 and 12-13 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 4-6 are now allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

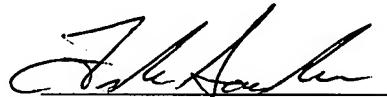
In the Final Office Action, claims 3, 10-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benderev in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,666,872 to Barreiro et al. (hereinafter "Barreiro"). As indicated above, claims 3 and 14 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10 and 11 are now allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benderev in view of U.S. Patent 3,842,824 to Neufeld (hereinafter "Neufeld"). For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 9 are now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action has been traversed or rendered moot. Accordingly, early and favorable action on claims 1, 4-6, and 8-11 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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